

## **What kind of energy challenges are Slovakia and Europe facing?**

**Will there be enough gas for both countries of Central Europe and Ukraine? Is it profitable to invest into nuclear energy? When will Slovakia have a joint gas market with the Czech Republic, Poland and Hungary? What can Slovak towns and cities do to decrease their energy consumption?**

These and many more current question will be discussed and answered by leading experts from the energy field during the eighth year of the biggest [Central European Energy Conference 2014](#), which will take place during 23<sup>rd</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> November 2014 in Bratislava.

The conference, which is part of the official programme of Slovakia's Visegrad Four Presidency in 2014-2015, will be attended by more than 250 experts from around Europe and the United States. The meeting of the V4 energy ministers will also be held on the margin of the conference followed by their joint press-conference.

During the second panel of the conference an important flagship document on energy security will be presented - the annual report of the International Energy Agency (IEA). The complex report for the year 2014 „World Energy Outlook 2014“ will be exclusively presented by the Executive Director of the IEA Maria van der Hoeven and commented by experts from the U.S. Energy Information Administration, European Commission and Central European energy companies.

The current report focuses on the assessment of global energy trends and their consequences for energy security and economic competitiveness of the EU and, in particular, the region of Central Europe.

### **Nuclear energy, energy efficiency and security of energy supplies**

Leadings experts, top managers and high level officials from the EU institutions and the countries of Central Europe will discuss the following main topics of the this year CEEC conference: nuclear energy in the EU and Central Europe, energy efficiency, R&D and new technologies that are vital for the energy sector and its further development.

Another key topic of the conference will be the integration of the gas markets of the Visegrad 4 countries. The issue of energy integration is becoming more and more pressing within the context of the current development in Ukraine and Russia.

Security of energy supplies ahead of the upcoming winter season is a key issue not only for the energy market within the European Union, but also for neighbouring Ukraine. The conference will host the leading representatives of the biggest energy companies of the Visegrad Four – eustream, NET4GAS, GAZ-SYSTEM, MVM Group as well as the Chairman of

the Board of Directors of the Ukrainian gas company Naftogaz, Andrij Kobolev that will discuss the issue within a separate panel session.

The ambitions of the CEEC is according to the director of SFPA Alexander Duleba to “ bring together leading actors from the energy sector in the region of Central Europe and contribute to finding better solutions for the energy policy of the EU and the countries of Central Europe.”

*The conference is organized by the Research Centre of the Slovak Foreign Policy Association, Representation of the European Commission in Slovakia and the Slovak Gas and Oil Association in cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic and the Ministry of economy of the Slovak Republic and other conference partners.*

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